

Sir, if any further Account of the above will be acceptable to you, or the *Royal Society*, if you please to command I will wait on you. There are Alterations in my Machine I think for the better; and some new Experiments too long to write, fearing it would be too troublesome; from

*Your humble and obedient Servant,*

R. Roche.

X. *A Letter from John Huxham M. D.  
F. R. S. to C. Mortimer Secr. R. S. con-  
cerning a Child born with an extraordinary  
Tumour near the Anus, containing some  
Rudiments of an Embryo in it.*

*Dear Sir,*

*Read May 19. 1748.* THE following Case was lately communicated to me by Mr. Alexander Wills, an experienced and ingenious Surgeon and Man-Midwife, of Kingsbridge. It seems to have something particular and remarkable. If you think so (on Perusal) you may be so good as to lay it before the *Royal Society*. I am,

*S I R,*

*Plimouth, Dec. 12.*

*1746.*

*Your much obliged, and  
most obedient humble Servant,*

J. Huxham.

*U u*

*" John*

" John Perrine's Wife, of Charleton Parish, in  
 " this County, a brisk active young Woman (he  
 " very infirm and consumptive) was deliver'd of a  
 " Daughter at full Time, July 11, 1746. The  
 " Child was perfect, as to all its Limbs, Head,  
 " Body, &c. but from the Region over the *Os*  
 " *sacrum*, *Glutei* Muscles, and between the Thighs,  
 " quite home to the *Pudendum*, was growing a  
 " very large Substance, which the Midwife and  
 " others call'd a Wen, in Shape very like the Ven-  
 " tricle of a Sheep, and seem'd, as to its Colour  
 " and outward Appearance, a Continuation of the  
 " same Skin with the rest of the Body, but very  
 " full of Blood-vessels. It hung down behind be-  
 " low the Heels, and was bigger than the whole  
 " Body of the Child itself. It felt very soft, and  
 " seem'd to have Matter fluctuate in it; but in the  
 " middle of the Whole was evidently felt a hard  
 " Substance.

" The *Pudendum* as well as *Anus* were in all re-  
 " spects natural, and both Urine and Stool were re-  
 " gularly discharg'd; but the *Anus* was placed much  
 " more forward, and immediately under the *Pu-*  
 " *dendum*; so that the *Fæces* were discharged in  
 " the same Direction with that of the Urine.

" I made a Puncture in the depending Part of  
 " the Tumour, and drew off near two Quarts of a  
 " palish red Water, without any Smell. The Ori-  
 " fice being left open, there was a continual Issue  
 " of the same kind of Water for several Days; but  
 " by degrees it became more and more glutinous,  
 " and at length whitish like *Pus*, and very fetid. As  
 " the

" the Discharge was great, the Child grew weaker  
" and weaker, and at the End of 15 Days died.

" The next Day I open'd the Tumour, and found,  
" near the *Os Coccygis*, an Abscess within a Cystis,  
" in which were four Ounces at least of white  
" *Pus* prodigiously stinking ; and, on further Exa-  
" mination, found several cartilaginous Joints, as it  
" were, somewhat resembling the Tail of a Sheep,  
" continued from the Point of the *Os Coccygis*.  
" These were about two Inches long, and envelop'd  
" with a kind of fleshy Substance cover'd with a  
" sort of Fat : These, when cut thro', appear'd ex-  
" actly like the inner Part of Lamb-Stones. From  
" those depended a Substance like the Head and Neck  
" of an Embryo, as big as a large Egg, which, on  
" opening, contained somewhat resembling Brain,  
" and a kind of a *Cerebellum* in the back Part :  
" It had a Mouth and Tongue on one Side of the  
" Face (if it might be so call'd) but no Appear-  
" ance of Eyes or Nose; however there was an  
" Ear pretty evident.

" In the large Tumour there hung a kind of  
" loose Membrane, which perhaps might be Part  
" of a Secundine.